

FEMA Public Notice

Snow Creek Pump Station Relocation and Flood Hardening

Hickory, North Carolina

The City of Hickory has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program funding through North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: City of Hickory

Project Title: City of Hickory Snow Creek Pump Station Relocation and Flood Hardening; EMA-2020-BR-100-0020

Location of proposed work/Facility: Snow Creek Pump Station

Address: 2061 Snow Creek Road NE, Hickory, North Carolina

Latitude/Longitude: 35,787694, -81.285222

Approximate Date(s) of New Construction: 10/1/2023-11/30/2024

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project is for the relocation of the Snow Creek Pump Station. The station is currently located in an AE Flood Zone. Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was determined by the Flood Insurance Rate Map, Map Number: 3710372400J, dated 9/5/2007. The primary goal of the project is to relocate critical infrastructure outside of the 100-year floodplain and floodway. This project consists of two main elements: the relocation of the Snow Creek Pump Station outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and stream restoration through implementation of floodplain benching at Snow Creek. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of North Carolina and local floodplain regulations. The proposed work will not take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The City of Hickory will demolish and relocate the pump station outside the 100-year floodplain at a higher elevation to mitigate future flood damage. The relocated pump station will be identical to the existing facility, with a vertical intake screen in the wet well and three submersible wastewater pumps. To reach the relocated pump station location across the creek, the existing 8" aerial crossing will be replaced with a new 24" aerial crossing. The proposed 24" sewer will be sloped in the opposite direction from the existing line for the flow to run west by gravity to the new site. The existing pump station will be demolished to allow for floodplain benching at Snow Creek. The other major project element is the Snow Creek bank stabilization, floodplain benching, and planting of native plants. Floodplain benching consists of excavating and re-grading the stream bank to provide additional capacity for flood water at the former site of the pump station. The stream bank will then be planted with native plants to reduce erosion and restore the ecosystem. Benching the streambank will allow storm flows to spill out and slow down over on the east overbank will reduce erosion at the edge of the property. This project will protect the water quality in the City of Hickory by preventing sewer overflows and wastewater treatment outages. It will also incorporate nature-based solutions in the form of floodplain volume restoration and erosion control via native plantings.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No action): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on the community. If the pump station is not repaired or relocated, the pump station may continue to be flooded, making it an unsafe for continued use.

Alternative #2 (Harden in-place): Hardening of the existing pumpstation through dry floodproofing. It was determined that hardening would be infeasible due to the layout and construction of the existing pump station, as well as its proximity to Snow Creek, which would not allow for an acceptable level of protection.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to:

FEMA Region 4

3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road

Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [EMA-2020-BR-100-0020 COMMENT].

All comments are due by no later than 30 days of the posted date of this notice